

RABIES PROTOCOL

MANAGEMENT OF DOGS & CATS WHICH BITE HUMANS

(Wolf Hybrids and other exotic pets are considered to be wild animals)

Exposure Category

Vaccination Status of Exposing Animal Not Relevant to Recommendations

Category 1 Visible bite or scratch from a dog or cat, which has been identified and is available for quarantine	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Notify local director of health and local animal inspector2. Biting animal will be placed under strict confinement for 10 days3. A) If biting animal is healthy at the end of 10 days, victim is not at risk for rabies3. B) If biting animal begins to exhibit signs compatible with rabies, biting animal should be euthanized and submitted for rabies testing4. A) If test results are negative, victim is not at risk for rabies4. B) If test results are positive, notify Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Division of Epidemiology
Category 2 Visible bite or scratch from a dog or cat, which has NOT been identified and is NOT available for quarantine	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Animal must be assumed to be rabid2. Notify Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Division of Epidemiology3. Notify local director of health and local animal inspector4. Furnish local Animal Control with a description of the dog or cat and location where animal was last seen

- Domestic animals other than dogs or cats biting humans should be handled on a case by case basis
- Any non-domestic animal biting a human needs to be reported to the Department of Public Health
- Do not vaccinate any dog or cat which is under a 10-day quarantine
- Any animal euthanized while under a 10-day quarantine MUST be submitted for rabies testing

1. Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Division of Epidemiology: (617) 983-6800

2. Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources, Division of Animal Health: (617) 626-1810

This document was prepared by the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources, Division of Animal Health

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